

Mother's Day Sunday, May 12, 2024

by C. Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Good morning and welcome to the house of the Lord, especially all you moms here today.

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day began in America when a lady named Anna Jarvis, who had no children herself, organized a memorial service to honor her mother, who had just passed away. The date was the second Sunday of May, 1905.

The idea caught on and became so popular that it was declared a National Holiday in 1914.

So universal is the recognition of the contribution of motherhood that virtually every country in the world also has a celebrated Mother's Day. Most are celebrated on the same date as here in America, although there are numerous variations.

Mother's Day is not a Biblical Holiday; its purpose, however, is one that is clearly promoted in Scripture.

Although not so much today, historically, the mothers most honored have been the ones who have borne large numbers of children.

Scientific studies have long agreed that although you may get more genetic influence from your fathers, it is the mothers who have had the far greatest influence over the character and traits developed in our children's lives; most of that being established by around age 7.

Science has never discovered anything that God did not already know.

God has always laid much responsibility for the character formation of children at the feet of their mothers.

There are 30 instances in the Old Testament where we are given the names and track record of various leaders in Israel, mostly Kings; and then given the names of their mothers, implying their partial responsibility for the outcome.

In one particular instance God flatly tells us so:

2 Chronicles 22:2-3

2 Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one

year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.

3 He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.

God, of course, always tells it like it is; two out of three of those leaders were evil.

In the Bible there were good mothers and there were evil ones, but there were no perfect ones.

Even Mary the mother of Jesus spoke of herself as a sinner in need of a Savior just like you.

Luke 1:46-47

46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

The only people who need a Savior are sinners.

After all, what kind of a mother drives off after the service and leaves her kid behind; Mary and Joseph actually pulled that one off for a full day's journey before coming back for Jesus.

And yes, I know, some of you here have pulled that very same trick.

Even in the very first family, we have three sons Cain, Abel and Seth.

Same mother, same father, and we can assume at least, a very similar upbringing.

Yet the outcome was two Godly men and a murderer.

Well, it's Mother's Day, how many times can I preach from Proverbs 31?

Can any of you really relate to the virgin Mary?

We could talk about Naomi from the book of Ruth, no doubt the Godliest mother-in-law in the Bible.

Of the most notable mothers in the Bible, there is one that was not typical in many ways but the things that made her notable were special indeed.

Her name was Hannah. She was the mother of the Prophet Samuel, one of the truly great servants of God recorded in Scripture.

Unlike many great leaders who attribute so much of their success to the influence of their mothers, Samuel's mother was not even present for most of Samuel's upbringing.

Yet, she had a profound effect on Samuel's life like no other.

We read her story in **1 Samuel 1:1-28**

1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

2 And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? *am* not I better to thee than ten sons?

9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant *thee* thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more *sad*.

19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young.

25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I *am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

As we continue reading in chapter two, we get a look into the heart of this woman; how she really feels about the Lord.

1 Samuel 2:1-11

1 And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

2 *There is* none holy as the LORD: for *there is* none beside thee: neither *is there* any rock like our God.

3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD *is* a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

4 The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

5 *They that were* full have hired out themselves for bread; and *they that were* hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

7 The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

11 And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

Hannah had no promise from the Lord that we know of to grant this prayer that she prayed.

Yet, such was her heart toward God that God did grant her request.

Samuel grew up in the house of God and went on to become one of the greatest men of God who had ever lived, serving faithfully to the very end of his life.

In years past I have given our children and husbands an opportunity to share special things in particular that they appreciate about our moms.

Today, I want to give our moms an opportunity like God gave Hannah here in this book, to share some of the special things in particular that they appreciate about our God.